



THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the Drawings as follows.

A Replacement Sheet of drawings for sheet 1 containing only Figure 1 is submitted herewith. In the Replacement Sheet, Applicants have added the descriptive labels to the blocks represented in Figure 1, per the suggestion in the Office Action.

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action dated August 14, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. Claim 2 has been cancelled from consideration, new claim 19 has been added to the application, and claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 16-18 have been amended. However, no new matter has been introduced via the above noted amendments. Therefore, the above amendments to the drawings, specification, claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1 and 2-19 are pending and submitted for consideration herein.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Figure 1 was objected to under 37 CFR §1.84(o) for not containing descriptive labels. Applicants have amended Figure 1 to include the descriptive labels “CO,” “WDM,” and “ONU,” in accordance with the suggestions in the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Office Action suggests that Applicants add section headings to the application. In response thereto, Applicants have amended the specification to include appropriate section headings in accordance with 37 CFR §1.77(b).

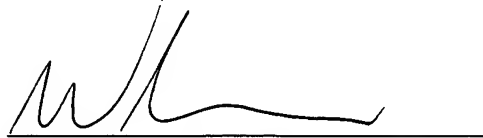
In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 9-13 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph for antecedent basis issues. Applicants have amended claims 9, 11, and 13 to address this issue, and therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-13 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 8, 14, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Darcie* (U.S. Patent No. 5,559,624), and claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of *Darcie*, in view of *Chan* (ELECTRONICS LETTERS, January 3, 2002, Vol. 38, No. 1, page 43-45). However, the Office Action indicated that claims 2-7 and 9-13 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 16-19 (each of the independent claims in the application) to include the allowable limitation from claim 2, *i.e.*, the data signal comprising an optical signal. As such, Applicants submit that each of independent claims 1 and 16-19 are now allowable over the cited prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2-18 is therefore respectfully requested, and allowance of claims 1 and 2-19 is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Alexander Nolte', written over a horizontal line.

N. Alexander Nolte  
Registration No. 45,689

**Customer No. 32294**  
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP  
14<sup>TH</sup> Floor  
8000 Towers Crescent Drive  
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700  
Telephone: 703-720-7800  
Fax: 703-720-7802

NAN:kzw

Enclosures: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal  
Replacement Sheet of Figure 1